

115TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 2326

To prohibit discrimination against the unborn on the basis of sex, and  
for other purposes.

---

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 19, 2018

Mr. KENNEDY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred  
to the Committee on the Judiciary

---

## A BILL

To prohibit discrimination against the unborn on the basis  
of sex, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Prenatal Non-  
5 discrimination Act of 2018” or “PRENDA”.

**6 SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY.**

7       (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

8           (1) Women are a vital part of American society  
9           and culture and possess the same fundamental  
10          human rights and civil rights as men.

19                         (5) Sex-selection abortions are not expressly  
20 prohibited by United States law, and only 7 States  
21 ban abortions for reason of sex selection at some  
22 point in pregnancy. Sex is an immutable char-  
23 acteristic ascertainable at the earliest stages of  
24 human development through existing medical tech-  
25 nology and procedures commonly in use, including

1 maternal-fetal bloodstream DNA sampling, amnio-  
2 centesis, chorionic villus sampling or “CVS”, and  
3 obstetric ultrasound.

4 (6) Sex-selection abortions have the effect of di-  
5 minishing the representation of women in the Amer-  
6 ican population, and therefore, the American elec-  
7 torate.

8 (7) Sex-selection abortion reinforces sex dis-  
9 crimination and has no place in a civilized society.

10 (8) The history of the United States includes  
11 many examples of sex discrimination. The people of  
12 the United States ultimately responded in the  
13 strongest possible legal terms by enacting a constitu-  
14 tional amendment correcting an element of this dis-  
15 crimination. Women, once subjected to sex discrimi-  
16 nation that denied them the right to vote, now have  
17 suffrage guaranteed by the 19th Amendment. The  
18 elimination of discriminatory practices has been and  
19 is among the highest priorities and greatest achieve-  
20 ments of American history.

21 (9) Implicitly approving the discriminatory  
22 practices of sex-selection abortion by choosing not to  
23 prohibit them will reinforce sex discrimination, and  
24 coarsen society to the value of females. Thus, Con-

1 gress has a compelling interest in acting—indeed it  
2 must act—to prohibit sex-selection abortion.

3 (b) CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY.—In accordance  
4 with the above findings, Congress enacts the following  
5 pursuant to Congress' power under—

6 (1) the Commerce Clause;

7 (2) section 5 of the 14th Amendment to the  
8 Constitution of the United States, including the  
9 power to enforce the prohibition on government ac-  
10 tion denying equal protection of the laws; and

11 (3) section 8 of article I of the Constitution of  
12 the United States to make all laws necessary and  
13 proper for the carrying into execution of powers  
14 vested by the Constitution in the Government of the  
15 United States.

16 **SEC. 3. DISCRIMINATION AGAINST THE UNBORN ON THE**  
17 **BASIS OF SEX.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 13 of title 18, United  
19 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
20 lowing:

21 **“§ 250. Discrimination against the unborn on the**  
22 **basis of sex**

23 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Whoever knowingly—

1           “(1) performs an abortion knowing that such  
2       abortion is sought based on the sex or gender of the  
3       child;

4           “(2) uses force or the threat of force to inten-  
5       tionally injure or intimidate any person for the pur-  
6       pose of coercing a sex-selection abortion;

7           “(3) solicits or accepts funds for the perform-  
8       ance of a sex-selection abortion; or

9           “(4) transports a woman into the United States  
10      or across a State line for the purpose of obtaining  
11      a sex-selection abortion,

12     or attempts to do so, shall be fined under this title or im-  
13     prisoned not more than 5 years, or both.

14           “(b) CIVIL REMEDIES.—

15           “(1) CIVIL ACTION BY WOMAN ON WHOM ABOR-  
16       TION IS PERFORMED.—A woman upon whom an  
17       abortion has been performed or attempted in viola-  
18       tion of subsection (a)(2) may in a civil action  
19       against any person who engaged in a violation of  
20       subsection (a) obtain appropriate relief.

21           “(2) CIVIL ACTION BY RELATIVES.—The father  
22       of an unborn child who is the subject of an abortion  
23       performed or attempted in violation of subsection  
24       (a), or a maternal grandparent of the unborn child  
25       if the pregnant woman is an unemancipated minor,

1 may in a civil action against any person who en-  
2 gaged in the violation, obtain appropriate relief, un-  
3 less the pregnancy or abortion resulted from the  
4 plaintiff's criminal conduct or the plaintiff consented  
5 to the abortion.

6       “(3) APPROPRIATE RELIEF.—Appropriate relief  
7 in a civil action under this subsection includes—

8           “(A) objectively verifiable money damages  
9 for all injuries, psychological and physical, in-  
10 cluding loss of companionship and support, oc-  
11 casioned by the violation of this section; and

12           “(B) punitive damages.

13       “(4) INJUNCTIVE RELIEF.—

14           “(A) IN GENERAL.—A qualified plaintiff  
15 may in a civil action obtain injunctive relief to  
16 prevent an abortion provider from performing  
17 or attempting further abortions in violation of  
18 this section.

19           “(B) DEFINITION.—In this paragraph the  
20 term ‘qualified plaintiff’ means—

21              “(i) a woman upon whom an abortion  
22 is performed or attempted in violation of  
23 this section;

24              “(ii) a maternal grandparent of the  
25 unborn child if the woman upon whom an

1           abortion is performed or attempted in violation  
2           of this section is an unemancipated  
3           minor;

4           “(iii) the father of an unborn child  
5           who is the subject of an abortion performed or attempted in violation of sub-  
6           section (a); or

7           “(iv) the Attorney General.

8           “(5) ATTORNEYS FEES FOR PLAINTIFF.—The  
9           court shall award a reasonable attorney’s fee as part  
10          of the costs to a prevailing plaintiff in a civil action  
11          under this subsection.

12          “(c) BAR TO PROSECUTION.—A woman upon whom  
13          a sex-selection abortion is performed may not be pros-  
14          ecuted or held civilly liable for any violation of this section,  
15          or for a conspiracy to violate this section.

16          “(d) LOSS OF FEDERAL FUNDING.—A violation of  
17          subsection (a) shall be deemed for the purposes of title  
18          VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to be discrimination  
19          prohibited by section 601 of that Act.

20          “(e) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—A physician, phy-  
21          sician’s assistant, nurse, counselor, or other medical or  
22          mental health professional shall report known or suspected  
23          violations of any of this section to appropriate law enforce-  
24          ment authorities. Whoever violates this requirement shall

1 be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than 1  
2 year, or both.

3       “(f) EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION.—It shall be the  
4 duty of the United States district courts, United States  
5 courts of appeal, and the Supreme Court of the United  
6 States to advance on the docket and to expedite to the  
7 greatest possible extent the disposition of any matter  
8 brought under this section.

9       “(g) PROTECTION OF PRIVACY IN COURT PRO-  
10 CEEDINGS.—

11       “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except to the extent the  
12 Constitution or other similarly compelling reason re-  
13 quires, in every civil or criminal action under this  
14 section, the court shall make such orders as are nec-  
15 essary to protect the anonymity of any woman upon  
16 whom an abortion has been performed or attempted  
17 if she does not give her written consent to such dis-  
18 closure. Such orders may be made upon motion, but  
19 shall be made sua sponte if not otherwise sought by  
20 a party.

21       “(2) ORDERS TO PARTIES, WITNESSES, AND  
22 COUNSEL.—The court shall issue appropriate orders  
23 to the parties, witnesses, and counsel and shall di-  
24 rect the sealing of the record and exclusion of indi-  
25 viduals from courtrooms or hearing rooms to the ex-

1       tent necessary to safeguard the identity of the  
2       woman described in paragraph (1) from public dis-  
3       closure.

4           “(3) PSEUDONYM REQUIRED.—In the absence  
5       of written consent of the woman upon whom an  
6       abortion has been performed or attempted, any  
7       party, other than a public official, who brings an ac-  
8       tion under this section shall do so under a pseu-  
9       donym.

10          “(4) LIMITATION.—This subsection shall not be  
11       construed to conceal the identity of the plaintiff or  
12       of witnesses from the defendant or from attorneys  
13       for the defendant.

14          “(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

15           “(1) the term ‘abortion’ means the act of using  
16       or prescribing any instrument, medicine, drug, or  
17       any other substance, device, or means with the in-  
18       tent to—

19            “(A) kill the unborn child of a woman  
20       known to be pregnant; or

21            “(B) terminate the pregnancy of a woman  
22       known to be pregnant, with an intention other  
23       than—

1                         “(i) after viability to produce a live  
2                         birth and preserve the life and health of  
3                         the child born alive; or

4                         “(ii) to remove a dead unborn child;  
5                         and

6                         “(2) the term ‘sex-selection abortion’ means an  
7                         abortion undertaken for purposes of eliminating an  
8                         unborn child of an undesired sex.”.

9                         (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
10 at the beginning of chapter 13 of title 18, United States  
11 Code, is amended by adding after the item relating to sec-  
12 tion 249 the following new item:

“250. Discrimination against the unborn on the basis of sex.”.

13 **SEC. 4. SEVERABILITY.**

14                         If any portion of this Act, or the amendments made  
15 by this Act, or the application thereof to any person or  
16 circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not af-  
17 fect the portions or applications of this Act which can be  
18 given effect without the invalid portion or application.

